

HONORING DR. HILLIARD  
LAWRENCE LACKEY III

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 24, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Hilliard Lawrence Lackey, III.

Hilliard Lawrence Lackey, III, was born to the late Hilliard Lawrence, Jr. and Cora Lackey on October 9, 1942.

Dr. Lackey earned three degrees from Jackson State University: Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science, Master of Science Degree in Education Administration/Supervision and an Education Specialist Degree in Educational Administration. Dr. Lackey also earned a Master of Arts in Historical Geography at the University of Arkansas and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Higher Education Administration at the University of Mississippi.

Dr. Hilliard L. Lackey was an Assistant Professor of History and Alumni President (2004 to 2010) before he became Assistant to the Executive Vice President for External Affairs at Jackson State University (1967 to 2002). He also taught at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis in 2003 and 2004, and parts of 2005 and 2006.

Dr. Lackey's talent and hobbies include: being a football referee and baseball umpire; a columnist for the Mississippi Link, St. Louis American, Clarksdale Press Register, and The Scope; and a television program host for Scope and radio news director of the WMPR radio station.

Dr. Lackey is married to the love of his life, former Lillian Troupe, a math teacher at Powell Middle School. They have four beautiful children: Dr. Katrina Lackey Davis, a Medical Doctor at the University of Tennessee Medical School; Hilliard L. Lackey, IV, a recipient of a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas; Tahiri Charyse Lackey, a Ph.D. candidate at Georgia Tech; and Darryl William Lackey, an undergraduate student at Jackson State University who retired from Jackson State in 2010.

Dr. Lackey became a writer at an early age and published a book, "Marks, Martin and the Mule Train" in 1998 because there was no written information about the events of the Mule Train and the Poor People's Campaign during 1968 from Marks, MS to Washington, D.C.

Another major accomplishment is that Dr. Lackey was the First Black Park Ranger at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Carlsbad, New Mexico during the summers of 1964, 1965, 1966.

Dr. Lackey felt it was his appointed duty to answer the call of President Lyndon Baines Johnson and help integrate the National Park Service. Although he was terrified as a young man being so far away from the cotton fields of Marks, his birthplace, he conquered his fear.

Dr. Lackey survived three summers, mastered his job and paved the way for others. One of his encouraging encounters was when a black custodian working at the site put down his broom and became a Park Ranger during the time of his last year working there.

Dr. Lackey also an unpublished book about being the First Black Park Ranger at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Hilliard Lawrence Lackey for his successes and accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAUREEN  
TAYLOR AS SHE RECEIVES THE  
LET FREEDOM RING AWARD

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 24, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maureen Taylor's distinguished career and honor her remarkable work as she receives the Rainbow PUSH Let Freedom Ring Award. Taylor's contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

In 1983, Maureen Taylor received her Bachelor of Social Work from Marygrove College, where she was the distinguished valedictorian of her graduating class. After graduation, Taylor quickly immersed herself in social causes and became a dedicated community activist for poor and low-income families. In 1993, Taylor became the State Chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, the union for public assistance recipients and low-income people and was elected Treasurer of the National Welfare Rights Union in 1994.

Maureen Taylor makes a difference in our community. She has worked with countless people, residents, and community organizations to stop water, gas, and electricity shut offs for thousands of low-income families. Beyond this, Taylor has testified on the local, state, and federal level about the plight of poor people and continues to work with administrators and public officials to draft policies that protect poor and low-income families. Taylor's work has a profound impact on our community and reflects many of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by selflessly giving a voice to those who are silenced, powerless, or suppressed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maureen Taylor. Taylor's tenacity for change and commitment to improving the lives of our community's most vulnerable makes her a deserving recipient of the Let Freedom Ring Award. I am grateful for her impact on our community and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 24, 2020*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on January 8, 2020 during roll call no. 2, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoid-

ably detained during roll call no. 3, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 4, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Secure 5G and Beyond Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING RALPH OWENS' 30  
YEARS OF SERVICE AS MAYOR  
OF LAVONIA

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 24, 2020*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph Owens for his retirement as Mayor of the City of Lavonia. Mayor Owens retired on December 31, 2019, after serving the people of Lavonia as Mayor for over 30 years.

Since first being elected to the Lavonia City Council in 1987 and, two years later, being elected Mayor in 1989, Mayor Owens has dedicated over 30 years to serving the people of Lavonia. During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Owens oversaw dramatic changes to the city's departments and emergency services. When Mayor Owens took office, the city's police department had only six officers and two police cruisers at their disposal. His expansion of the city's police department and their capabilities resulted in the construction of a new complex, hiring of an additional eight officers, and providing each officer with their own vehicle.

Throughout his 30 years of service, Mr. Owens remained focused on Lavonia's economic and industrial growth. As chair of the Franklin County Industrial Building Authority, he worked to successfully bring new businesses to the community, such as the AutoZone Distribution Center and St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital, who now employ hundreds of people in and around the area.

In 2012, Owens was honored for his leadership by being named the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's (GMRC) Elected Official of the Year Award. The GMRC focuses on advancing economic and administrative cooperation amongst the various Northeast Georgia communities. As mayor of Lavonia, Mr. Owens made considerable efforts to do his part in representing the interests of the people of Lavonia.

In addition to being named Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's Elected Official of the Year 2012, Mayor Owens was also recently named Lavonia Chamber of Commerce's Good Citizen of the Year and was honored with the Margaret Ayers Award for Civic Health.

For over three decades, Mayor Owens has made great sacrifices to serve the people of Lavonia. I want to congratulate him and his wife, Judy, on his retirement. But most of all, I want to thank him for dedicating his life to the betterment of the people of Lavonia.